

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
YUMIKO HIDAKA ET AL. ) Examiner: L. Sealey  
Divisional of )  
Application No.: 08/724,481 ) Group Art Unit: 2772  
filed October 1, 1996 )  
Filed: Herewith )  
For: AN IMAGE PROCESSING )  
APPARATUS AND METHOD : July 12, 2000

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1

line 8, after "years," insert --it has become known  
that-- and after "problems" insert --exist--;

line 10, change "of every" to --for each--;

line 11, after "used" insert --- and delete "because  
of";

line 12, before "a spread" insert --This is due to--;

#3/A  
KD  
10-16-00  
E-t  
in  
part